

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2007
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Ernest Doizaki, Doug Hinchliffe, Donald Kanner, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Michael Tansey and Paul Vert.

Absent: Richard Gardner, Howard Klein, Richard Meruelo, Thomas Payne, Mark Shinbane, William Shinbane and Charlie Woo.

STAFF: Tara Devine, Raquel King, Greg Lee, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick.

CONSULTANTS: Qathryn Brehm, Ken Coelho and Don Steier

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 12:05pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS- None

III. LAPD UPDATE

Senior Lead Officer Mark Hyland from Newton Division informed the Board that in 2006 the Newton area had a 2% reduction in crime, and the Chief has set a goal of an additional 5% for 2007.

Hyland also informed the board that Newton currently has an excellent working arrangement with the DWP that includes lighting building fronts and alleys. Requests are usually fulfilled in one week.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Doug Hinchliffe made a motion to approve the December 19, 2006 minutes, and Larry Rauch seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

V. TREASURERS REPORT

Coelho informed the Board that the Toy District collected all assessment funds, and that all of the funds had been used.

Coelho reported that DID collected \$1,370,565, which is \$76,000 more than planned due in part to a reduced contingency and \$18,000 from assessment penalties.

An invoice was submitted to LAHSA for reimbursement for the "Check In Center". The amount is just over \$50,000 and is not reflected in the financials, waiting for the check to arrive.

Finally, Coelho stated that there is a balance of \$63,700 in the prior BID funds that could be used for one time expenses such as: \$14,000 to purchase new bikes, \$40,000 for leasehold improvements and \$10,000 for the new phone system.

Lopez expressed to the Board that the current Avaya phone system was inadequate and dropped calls, a constant problem. The current system is unable to handle the BIDs' call volume. In 2005, the BID handled 78,000 calls for service. Lopez then informed the Board that AT&T quoted \$10,000 for a new system, which would include 16 lines and 38 stations. The current system only provides 8 lines.

Ernie Doizaki suggested staff look into the cost of buying 20 lines instead of 16.

Larry Rauch made a motion to approve spending \$63,370 of prior BID funds for the one-time expenses, and Doug Hinchliffe seconded adding to the motion that staff look into obtaining 20 lines from AT&T. The Board unanimously approved.

VI. OPERATIONS REPORT

Toy District Enforcement:

Lopez informed the Board that Councilwoman Jan Perry's office formed a task force that includes the Toy District and Fashion District BIDs, as well as several City departments. This working group will be proposing changes in enforcement of illegal vending, pedestrian shopping zones, parking, traffic congestion, loading and unloading.

Larry Rauch expressed that he would prefer for CCEA not be the driving force of this working group, but act instead as a supporter of the City. Lopez explained that the LAPD and the Council office, primarily, are looking to CCEA to provide the leadership.

Operations Report:

McCormick stated that the Safer Cities Initiative is working very well in reducing the number of individuals living in encampments and the lawlessness that prevailed even a few short months ago. The LAPD's homeless count in the District has gone down significantly: November 1, 2006- 1,187, January 2, 2007- 1,146 and January 15, 2007- 875 individuals sleeping on the sidewalks in the District.

McCormick reported that 124,000 bags of trash were collected in 2005, and 150,000 in 2006.

Finally, Lopez informed the Board that she will be addressing the Police Commission on February 27, 2007 at 9:30am to thank the LAPD and the City for their efforts in Skid Row. She encouraged Board members to be present for that meeting to underscore CCEA's appreciation for the Safer Cities Initiative.

VII. INDUSTRIAL LAND USE POLICY

Devine stated that she and Lopez provided Councilman Jose Huizar and his planning deputy, Jessica McLean a tour of the Downtown Industrial District and the Arts District. The Councilman met with property owners at three key sites, and

remarked that the tour was helpful in his efforts to make this issue a priority for CD14. CD14 also recognizes CCEA as being the lead advocate on the industrial land use issues.

Devine also informed the Board that an op-ed by Councilman Huizar in the Downtown News reflected the concerns of the stakeholders and CCEA.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS- None

IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:30pm.